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[22750/488]

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP ART UNIT 1772**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : Klaus HECKEL et al.  
Serial No. : 09/921,660  
Filed : August 3, 2001  
For : FLOOR COVERING MADE OF AN ELASTOMER  
MATERIAL HAVING A RELIEF-TYPE PATTERNED  
SURFACE  
Examiner : Catherine A. Simone  
Art Unit : 1772  
Conf. No. : 8200

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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Date: May 19, 2004

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Richard M. Rosati, Reg. No. 31,792

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

S I R:

This Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is filed in response to the Final Office Action of April 5, 2004 in connection with the above-captioned application.

**REMARKS**

**I. Introduction**

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 to 21 are pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 to 21 are allowable and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and that all certified copies of priority documents have been received.

**II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 to 21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11 to 21 were rejected under